

March 7, 2012

Good afternoon Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

My name is Davis Martin from Meriden, CT. I am here today to talk about S.B. No. 83:
AN ACT AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON SUNDAY UNDER
CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. (Support)

I am an avid sportsman and I grew up in the state of New Hampshire, where Sunday hunting has been allowed as long as I can recall. I started hunting on the weekends in my pre-teens with my father, another avid sportsman. I moved to CT in the early 90's and it took me years before I got comfortable with the numerous environmental laws and restrictions to hunt and fish in this state.

Hunting is greatly restricted to working individuals such as myself. If I work a normal Monday thru Friday 9-5 job, that leaves me only one Saturday to hunt during the state land lottery "A" shotgun season. If I do not get "A" season I still only get one Saturday to hunt during "B" season. Now in my case I have a young son and my wife works Saturdays, so I have no reasonable way to hunt in this state. I am forced to pay out-of-state fees and hunt in NH on Sundays. I would much rather spend my dollars in my state of CT.

As it stands now if I want to hunt in CT I would have to pay a babysitter, and hope he or she doesn't cancel on my one day a year to hunt deer in my home state, or take a week off from work. What working class citizen can afford to do that in today's economy?

If this bill is passed it would open up hunting for working class citizens such as myself. Even though I also hunted archery in NH, I have taken the free archery class given by DEEP and spent over \$1000.00 on new equipment so I can hunt close to home and feed my family in the anticipation that this bill is passed.

In closing, I would like to add that I want to continue to pass on my family traditions to my now 7 year old son when he reaches legal hunting age.

I thank you for taking the time to hear my story. I am sure I am not alone.

Davis Martin
48 Pine Street
Meriden, CT 06451